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AYSGARTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman J. Sunter
Vice-Chairman Mrs. A. Mason

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

* J. L. Cotton - M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

* K. J. Jolley D.P.A., M.S.I.A.

* Contributions to salary from Exchequer

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1955

To The Chairman and Members of the Aysgarth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1955.

The birth-rate (18.4 per 1000 population) was above the figure of 15.0 for England and Wales and showed a considerable improvement over 12.2 for 1954. The death-rate was still above the national figure (11.7) at 16.1 but was lower than 1954 (19.1).

The infantile mortality rate was greater than the rate for England and Wales but no significance can be attached to this.

There was no undue prevalence of infectious diseases in the District although both the figures for whooping-cough and measles were higher than normal.

The population trend of the district is worthy of comment. Since 1948 the population has declined by about 200 which represents approximately 6% of the 1948 population. This rate of decline maintains that which has persisted since 1931 when the population was 4,257, it is now estimated to be 3,430. This problem of depopulation is not peculiar to Wensleydale - it is a problem facing all the more remote rural areas in the country. The significance of this trend is of importance to the local community in many ways - some more obvious than others. For instance, the repayment of loans made for financing necessary present day schemes - water supplies, housing, sewerage & sewage disposal - will have to be made by a much smaller population in the future. In 30 years time, the population may be as low as 2,500 if the present rate of decline continues. The falling population bringing with it such problems as stated above, will be of considerable importance when eventually the reorganisation of local government is considered.

A pleasing feature during the year was the start made in dealing with the unfit property in the District. Much remains to be done but

this is one sphere in which a falling population is very helpful. No population pressure exists to keep unfit houses occupied as there does in areas of expanding populations.

Another point of note is that the Council are proceeding with a scheme to give a pure water supply to the upper dale. As stressed in reports of other years, this is of prime importance. With the existing supplies, a waterbourne epidemic is very liable to occur at any time.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to the Members & Officials of the Council for their help and cooperation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN L. COTTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) General Statistics

Area (in acres)	81,032
Population (Registrar Generals Estimate of Resident Population)	3,430
Net decrease of Resident population (mid 1954-mid 1955)	20
Population (1931 census)	4,257
Population (1951 census)	3,607
Number of inhabited houses (1951)	1,209
Number of inhabited houses (1955)	1,227
Rateable value of district (April 1956)	£ 23,875
Product of a penny rate	£ 95 (estimated)

(b) Vital Statistics

1. BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total	Rates per 1000 home population	
				Local	England & Wales
Live Births					
Legitimate	38	24	62	18.4	15.0
Illegitimate	1	0	1		
Still Births					
Legitimate	0	1	1		
Illegitimate	0	0	0	15.6	23.1

2. DEATHS

All causes	27	29	56	16.3	11.7
Maternal causes	0	0	0	0	0.64
Enteritis & diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	0	0	0	0	—
* Rates per 1000 total (live & still) births					

3. INFANTILE

DEATHS

(deaths of infants under 1yr)

All infants	0	2	2	31.7	24.9
				(Rate per 1000 live births)	
Legitimate infants	0	2	2	32.3	—
				(Rate per 1000 legitimate births)	
Illegitimate infants	0	0	0	0	—
				(Rate per 1000 illegitimate births)	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0	0	0	—
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	0	0	0	0	—

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Other Infectious and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant diseases	4	7	11
Cardio vascular	18	13	31
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Digestive diseases	0	1	1
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Other diseases	2	4	6
Vehicle accidents	0	0	0
other accidents	0	2	2
Suicide	1	0	1
	<u>27</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>56</u>
Total deaths (all causes)			

POPULATION TREND

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Estimated mid-year population	3430	3450	3474	3492	3534	3573	3614	3623
Birth-rate	18.4	12.2	22.5	17.5	18.7	12.0	19.0	17.1
Death-rate	16.3	19.1	15.0	14.9	17.0	14.3	13.2	14.5

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises, persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.



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SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The details of staff are given at the beginning of the report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Bainbridge.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Local Hospital accommodation is provided in Northallerton by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Lancaster and Bradford hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOMES

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Mid-wifery service is under the general direction of the County Council, with the day-to-day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee. Three district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The equivalent of 0.14 whole time Domestic Help was employed in the District during the year and a total of 310 hours were worked. It is very difficult to recruit suitable domestic helps in the area.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year, the Council's consultant engineer was asked to render a report on the available water supplies in the upper dale. Following this report, a scheme was submitted for utilising some of the Fossdale Springs to supply High Shaw, Simonstone and Hardraw at the same time to augment the Hawes Water Supply. Particulars of the scheme were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and to the North Riding County Council for their observations.

The proposal to extend the Addleborough Sub-Regional water scheme to supply the above areas was dropped.

Details about the supply position during the year are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Section.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No new schemes have been started in the year under review. The Hawes works continued to yield a very unsatisfactory effluent and an attempt was made to guage the water of infiltration without much success. Until this water, or a large part of it is excluded from the system it will be impossible to produce a satisfactory effluent with the existing works.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

An extension of the collection service to part of Raydale was made during the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

The Council's proposal to make a clearance area of the Newkin in Hawes was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A total of seven houses was involved and demolition commenced during the year.

and

Details regarding housing/the proposals for dealing with the unfit property in the area are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's section.

SECTION E

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 consolidated previous legislation relating to food and drugs. Under this Act, the food Hygiene Regulations 1955 were made and are to become effective from January 1st, 1956. These regulations should enable an improvement to be made in the standard of food hygiene.

Details of meat inspection are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's section.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases notified

Whooping cough
Measles
Pneumonia
Erysipelas
Tuberculosis

Males	Females	Total
25	18	43
15	11	26
3	2	5
1	1	2
1	0	1

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following figures indicate the immunisation state of the child population in the District.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Immunised</u>
0 - 4yrs	72%
5 - 14yrs	99%

These figures are extremely satisfactory and it is pleasing to see the % immunised in the 0 - 4 yrs group rising toward 75%.

Small-pox Vaccination

53% of the children born during the year were notified as having been vaccinated against small-pox (67% in 1954). Whilst the figure for 1955 is below that for the previous year, it is still well above the average for the Country at the present time.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 - 54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 64	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 - +	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were 18 cases Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register as at the 31st December, 1955. This gives a rate of 6.12 cases of Tuberculosis per 1000 population as compared with 6.38 in 1954.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SECTION

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A total of 1045 inspections were carried out during the year and an analysis of these is given below.

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Complied with	Statutory Notices	Complied with
Council Works	350	-	-	-	-
Housing	252	5	5	0	1
Public Health Acts	443	9	9	-	-

WATER SUPPLIES

(Rainfall as Measured at Hawes)

Month	Amount	Month	Amount
JAN.	4.12	JULY	1.20
FEB.	2.54	AUG.	0.57
MAR.	1.60	SEPT.	2.58
APR.	1.57	OCT.	3.50
MAY	5.23	NOV.	3.55
JUNE	3.18	DEC.	9.14
TOTAL	18.24	TOTAL	20.54

The above table shows the rainfall for the year, it will be seen that the spring was fairly dry and that in the months of July and August, there were only 1.77 inches of rain. The resultant drought was more serious in other parts of the Country than the Rural District, which was affected as follows :-

Hawes. The daily rate of flow into the reservoir just about kept pace with the demand and during peak draw periods there was a temporary shortage in the higher parts of the supply area.

Addleborough Sub-regional Supply. Here again the supply just about equalled the demand. At times the level of the main reservoir at Thornton Rust fell below the outlet pipe, this allowed air to enter the main, accumulating in the flat stretch between Thornton Rust and Bainbridge, the resultant air-locks cut off the supply to Bainbridge and Dale Grange and on two or three occasions a temporary shortage was experienced in these villages.

Carperby. The yield from the main spring could not keep pace with the demand and it was necessary to put a second spring into use, in this way a good supply was maintained throughout the drought.

Simonstone and Woodhall. These hamlets were reduced to a very small flow and the farmers and householders were greatly inconvenienced.

Hardraw. The flow hardly kept pace and the high places were without water at times.

Bacteriological Examination of Supplies

The following table gives the results of a series of samples taken during the year. It will be noted that most of the supplies give bad results at some time or another. This is due to the fact that the springs which are used as sources of supply derive their water from gathering grounds used as pastures. Whilst we take comfort from the fact that contamination is most probably of animal origin and not potentially dangerous we cannot ignore the possibility of human contamination by the same channel.

A satisfactory bacteriological standard cannot be expected of any of the supplies until they are chlorinated.

25 Samples were taken during the year as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Hawes	2	4
Hardraw	1	1
Carperby	-	1
Newbiggin & Thoralby	2	1
Addlebrough Regional Supply	1	-
Appersett	-	1
Askrigg	1	-
West Burton	-	3
Private Supplies	3	1
Fossdale	1	2

Table showing population supplied from Public Water Mains

Parish	Houses	Population
Abbotside High	85	284
Abbotside Low	28	74
Askrigg	143	476
Aysgarth	66	262
Bainbridge	150	428
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	97	227
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	66	197
Hawes	377	984
Newbiggin	22	64
Thoralby	45	118
Thornton Rust	34	114

Total number of houses in Area 1,227
Total number of houses supplied from Public Mains 1,112

S E W E R A G E

Table Showing number of houses connected to Public Sewers

Parish	No. of Houses	Population Served
Abbotside High	49	142
Abbotside Low	-	-
Askrigg	-	-
Aysgarth	51	217
Bainbridge	147	418
Bishopdale	-	-
Burton-cum-Walden	-	-
Carperby-cum-Thoresby	61	184
Hawes	372	974
Newbiggin & Thoralby	-	-
Thornton Rust	-	-
	680	1,935
With a total population of approximately 3,430 the percentage for which sewerage is provided is 55%		

HOUSING

Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954.

Section 1 of this Act required the Council to submit proposals to the Ministry showing the estimated number of unfit houses in the District and indicating the rate at which it is intended to secure their demolition.

The following proposals were submitted and approved by the Ministry, it is now the duty of the Council to implement the proposals.

HOUSING ACT 1936 : PARTS II AND III

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954 : SECTION I

PROPOSALS

Local Authority: AYSGARTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

County: YORKSHIRE (N. R.)

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authorities area: 1241

PART I. THE TOTAL PROBLEM

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act 1936..... 127
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) 12

PART 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, etc.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority... nil
- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative..... 7

PART 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years..... nil
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister 20
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, for temporary accommodation nil
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years 33
- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section II of the Housing Act 1936 15

(Signed) JOHN J. WILLAN, Clerk of the Council

Council Offices,

23rd August, 1955.

HAWES, Yorkshire.

Part 2

- (iv) The Clearance Order which included the seven houses shown under this heading was confirmed by the Minister and became operative on the 27th of August.

Part 3

Action in the first five years

There is no progress to report under this heading in that part of the year which followed the confirmation of the proposals in September.

Improvement Grants

The Council gave further consideration to the question of making grants towards the cost of improving houses and it was decided to rescind a resolution whereby the Council had decided that they were not in favour of such grants.

Six grants totaling £ 1,350 were offered to applicants. One grant of £ 300 was not accepted and work started on the remaining five proposals.

It is hoped that more use will be made of these grants as they can be the means whereby fit houses are provided in the villages where they are most needed. In this way the character and appearance of the villages is preserved and expensive encroachment on much needed land on the outskirts of the villages is to some extent avoided.

Livestock Rearing Act, 1951.

During the year eight farmhouses were improved with the assistance of grants made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the above Act.

Housing Survey

Houses surveyed were classified as follows :-

Total number of houses	1,251
Total number of houses surveyed	1,137
Class 1. Satisfactory in all respects	173
Class 2. Minor defects	360
Class 3. Repairs or structural alterations	478
Class 4. Suitable for improvement work under the Housing Act 1949	185
Class 5. Unfit for habitation	126

Class 5.

In order to arrive at the number of houses unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost, for the purpose of the report to the Ministry, all the houses which had been classed as such in the Survey were reinspected. 155 such houses were inspected and it was found that 28 had either been repaired or had amenities provided; these houses were upgraded.

Overcrowding

(a) Total number of houses overcrowded at the beginning of the year	1
(b) Number of families dwelling therein !.	1
(c) Number of new cases of overcrowding	nil
(d) Number of cases relieved	1
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	5

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS Houses built by Private Enterprise

The table below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the various parishes.

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Hawes	2	-
Askrieg	4	-
Thornton Rust	1	-
Aysgarth	2	1
Low Abbotside	1	-
TOTAL	10	1

HOUSES BUILT BY AYSGARTH R.D.C.

Parish	To 31/12/54	Completed by 31/12/55	Under Construction
Hawes	27	8	9
Bainbridge	8	-	-
Askrigg	4	-	-
Carperby	6	-	-
Aysgarth	4	-	-
West Burton	2	-	-
TOTAL	51	8	9

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, BUILDING BYELAWS

37 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table.

	New Build- ings	Alter- ations to dwell- ings	Garage & Sheds	Cow- sheds & Dairies	Other Build- ings	Con- ver- sion into Houses	Total
Hawes	-	5	7	-	1	1	14
Bainbridge	-	3	1	1	3	-	8
Askrigg	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Carperby	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Aysgarth	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Thornton Rust	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Thoralby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bishopdale	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
H. Abbotside	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
L. Abbotside	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
West Burton	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	3	17	10	2	4	1	37

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Powered	Non- Powered	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices	Occup- iers Prose- cuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by District Council	-	1	1	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 applied.	26	-	26	14	-	-

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Approximately 60% of the meat consumed in the Rural District was slaughtered in 5 private slaughterhouses within the Rural District. It has been found possible to maintain almost 100% inspection for the whole of the year.

Whilst the siting, Construction and facilities of the slaughterhouses leaves much to be desired, the state of cleanliness and the mode of slaughter etc., has always been satisfactory.

It is pleasant to be able to report that the co-operation between Sanitary Inspector and Butcher in the matters of notification of slaughter and inspection has been good.

The following Food Animals have been inspected in the course of the year :-

<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
165	61	94	17	94

It was found necessary to declare the following unfit for food :-

Tuberculosis (bovine)

3 Livers
5 Heads
6 Lungs
1 Entire Carcasse and organs

(pigs)

4 Heads

Other Diseases (bovine)

12 Livers

(pigs)

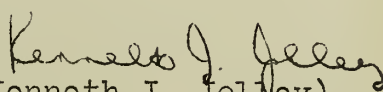
1 entire carcasse and organs
2 Kidneys
2 Livers,

(sheep)

2 entire carcasses and organs.

Other Foods

25 lbs of tinned meats
91 lbs of tinned vegetables


(Kenneth J. Jolley)

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor

